

REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action of June 23, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1-24 were previously pending in this application. Claims 11, 12, 23, 24 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. *See* Office Action, page 4, ¶5. By this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 11, 12, 23, and 24 in this manner. Specifically, claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 1 and 7; claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 1 and 8; claim 23 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 13 and 19; and claim 24 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 13 and 20.

Further, by this amendment, Applicant cancels claims 1-10 and 13-22 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to (and indeed intends to) pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims in one or more divisional or continuation applications. As a result of these amendments, independent claims 11, 12, 23, 24 are currently pending in this application and all outstanding issues are resolved. Accordingly, the application as presented is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Additionally, Applicant would like to thank Examiner Sotomayor for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview of August 15, 2005, the substance of which is summarized herein. During the telephone interview, Applicant inquired as to whether rewriting claims 11, 12, 23, and 24 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims would overcome the rejections of claims 1 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112 and discussed other proposed amendments to overcome these rejections. The Examiner indicated that rewriting the allowable claims in independent form and canceling the rejected claims would overcome the §112 rejections and would place the application in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
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